Speech for Thomas Harris
President, American Committee for KEEP

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honored Guests:

It is a great honor to be here for this celebration of KEEP's Fiftieth Anniversary. Although I am neither an academic specialist or government official like my distinguished colleagues, I do have a few observations to contribute.

The source of my comments is my long acquaintance with Paul Rusch and my observation of KEEP's work for many of its fifty years of existence. I am a second generation supporter of KEEP since my mother was a charter member of the American Committee for KEEP when it was established by Dr. Rusch in 1950. Dr. Rusch was a frequent visitor in our home during my youth, and an even more frequent correspondant over many years. I became a member of the American Committee for KEEP in 1967 and have been honored to be its President for more than a dozen years.

At the risk of seeming presumptuous, let me very briefly suggest three principles that are exemplified in Paul Rusch's life and which continue to be a part of the life and work of KEEP. I think that these principles offer a useful guideline for shaping the future involvement of any nation

or any smaller group in international activities.

1. The spirit of KEEP grows from the deep Christian commitment of Paul Rusch and those who have succeeded him in the guidance and administration of KEEP. Many governments choose not to be ruled by explicitly religious principles, but an underlying commitment to serving people in need , feeding the hungry, educating youth, seeking peace and protecting the environment are worthy goals in the most secular society.

2. The translation of deep idealism into concrete action on a human scale is another hallmark of Paul Rusch's legacy. Work at KEEP began most frequently with someone asking "How can we help? What can we do to make life better for those around us?" Projects continue to grow out of a concern for others without regard for self-interest or the expectation of future profit. This pioneering spirit always begins with human need. It is never put off by the difficulty of the task.

3. The work of KEEP has been most successful when it has been most co-operative. It is best when it has been built with the willing hands of volunteers from both Japan and America. International work must rise from the ability and willingness of people to overcome the separations of language, culture and national self interest. Work which

reaches into foreign lands, even with the most benevolent intentions, can only succeed when it carefully incorporates the hopes, desires, and ideals of local people. No group of outsiders should attempt to dictate foreign methods or foreign aspirations to those they wish to help. Americans must not be "ugly Americans"; Japanese must not become "ugly Japanese". The cultivation of this spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation is a lengthy but important first step in international activities.

Paul Rusch was an impressively practical man. Once he had accepted a project, he was committed to all of its detail, down to the cost of the last nail or the name of the least important participant. Working with others who may have different values, different cultural expectations, different political systems is very difficult. Careful attention to detail and careful preparation are crucial. Projects may begin in idealism, but they always must be brought to fruition with economic resources and hard work. Japan has already demonstrated its vast ability to work with enlightened pragmatism in the complex worlds of technology finance and commerce. Those skills are desperately needed as new international alliances are forged to combat the deadly encroachment of hunger, poverty and disease on our planet.

Idealism, courage, community mindedness, and ethical pragmatism are certainly a part of Paul Rusch's legacy. I

these qualities
commend consideration of ^ to all who are willing to become international citizens.

Oct. 22, 1988

Kiyosato